GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:418
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
DOCTOR-PATIENT RATIO
PUNNULAL MOHALE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is huge gap in the doctor-patient ratio in the urban and rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the present ratio thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to narrow this gap at an early date?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 418 FOR 18.12.2002

Medical Council of India has informed that the doctor population ratio at present works out to approximately 1: 1800. Apart from this, there are 6,81,124 registered medical practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.

As per Medical Council of India, there are sufficient number of doctors to take care of health care services all over the country including rural areas. The problem is one of mal-distribution. Since, health is a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of the respective States to take corrective measures in this regard. However, the Central Government has advised the State Governments from time to time to take the following steps to meet the shortage of doctors in rural areas:-

- To resort to decentralized recruitment of doctors.
- To appoint doctors on contract basis, wherever feasible.
- To improve infrastructural facilities for doctors and remove their hardships.
- To take steps to fill up vacancies of Specialists in CHCs and Medical Officers in PHCs by making rural services obligatory for 3 years.
- To reserve 25% of postgraduate seats in Medical Colleges, for in-service candidates who have worked in rural areas for at least three years with a bond that they will serve the Government for at least five years.